

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY 3/10/78 EXT 29690

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063018

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER) AS

SUBJECT: SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

REF: CANBERRA 1750

1. APPRECIATE REFTEL CONVEYING DFA OBSERVATIONS ON SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. WE VIEW VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CANBERRA PRIMARILY AS MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING BOTH THE CLOSENESS OF OUR TIES TO AUSTRALIA AND THE CONTINUED VITAL ROLE THE US INTENDS TO PLAY IN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PACIFIC BASIN AS A WHOLE. VISIT IS ALSO DESIGNED TO ENGAGE AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING CERTAIN GLOBAL ISSUES.

2. VICE PRESIDENT WILL WANT TO DISCUSS ALL TOPICS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 3, REFTEL. HE CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TO RAISE CONFIDENTIAL

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QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND ENERGY, WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE MAJOR THEMES OF HIS ASIAN VISIT. SPECIFICALLY HE WILL PROBABLY WANT TO SOUND OUT GOA ON GREATER AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN HELPING ATTACK WORLD AND REGIONAL FOOD SHORTAGES BY SUCH MEASURES AS CREATION OF GRAIN RESERVES AND ASSISTING LDC'S TO INCREASE THEIR OWN PRODUCTION. ON ENERGY, VP WILL WISH TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES ENERGY

SUPPLIES, INCLUDING CONTINUED AUSTRALIAN-US COOPERATION

IN NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD; PLUS POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN
OTHER AREAS SUCH AS COAL GASIFICATION, BOTH BILATERALLY
AND REGIONALLY.

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3. WE AGREE WITH GOA PREFERENCE (REFTEL) TO AVOID DETAILED
BILATERAL PROBLEMS. VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE PREPARED TO
DISCUSS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL TRADE ISSUES IF RAISED
HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF RECENT WOLFF AND GARLAND VISITS
AND FREQUENT WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL
TRADE WE DO NOT ENVISAGE VISIT AS OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER
THIS GROUND AGAIN IN ANY DETAIL.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY CONVEY THOUGHTS PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE
,O GOA, ELCITING ITS COMMENTS. WOULD OF COURSE APPRECIATE
ANY SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS EMBASSY ITSELF MIGHT WANT
TO MAKE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE063018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: 10/78 EXT 29690
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780109-0926
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780378/aaaacoic.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f4c218c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: 78 CANBERRA 1750
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3360074
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP
TAGS: OVIP, AS, (MONDALE, WALTER F)
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f4c218c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014